

# Context matters in outcome and management of rheumatoid arthritis

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**CONTEXT MATTERS IN OUTCOME AND MANAGEMENT OF RHEUMATOID  
ARTHRITIS: THE ROLE OF SOCIO-CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND  
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS' PREFERENCES**

1. The high prevalence of fatigue among patients with rheumatoid arthritis in wealthy countries is related to the socio-cultural environment (this thesis).
2. Patients' preferences influence treatment choices in rheumatoid arthritis care - especially when patients express their dislike - indicating that clinicians implement 'patient-centeredness' in clinical care (this thesis).
3. When choosing treatments for patients with rheumatoid arthritis, absolute costs are still more important than relative cost-effectiveness considerations. This jeopardizes efficient use of limited resources (this thesis).
4. When rheumatologists value patients' preferences and economic implications in treatment decisions differently, this is a potential source of inequities in health (this thesis).
5. In times of increasingly scarce healthcare resources, even the wealthiest societies need to clarify what they consider 'value-based' healthcare.
6. Increased availability of highly effective but very expensive medical treatment opportunities make economic trade-offs unavoidable, also in daily clinical care.
7. Climate change affects environmental and social determinants of health. 'The poorest - who least caused the climate change - will suffer most' (UN report on climate change, 2014).
8. Recognizing cultural diversity in medical care is important to better understand treatment priorities and needs of patients.
9. 'A ship is safe in the harbour, but that's not what ships are for' (John A. Shedd).
10. 'Time and health are two precious assets that we don't recognize and appreciate until they have been depleted' (Denis Waitley).